

BOG TURTLE (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*)

A Virginia Endangered Species

(and Federal Threatened, similarity of appearance)



Note the bright blotch behind the eye, which may be orange to yellow or red.



Bottom shell (plastron)

Bog turtles, a State Endangered species (and Federal Threatened, similarity of appearance), may be found in or near this project area. Bog turtles are North America's smallest turtle (up to 4 inches adult shell length) and are semiaquatic, found in boggy wetlands with open-canopy, sedges, sphagnum moss and deep mucky layers of organic soil with small rivulets of flowing water. The upper shell (or carapace) is light brown to mahogany or black and is slightly domed with a low keel. The bottom shell (or plastron) is mostly black with some irregular yellow to cream-colored blotches. Bog turtles have a conspicuous orange to yellow or red blotch behind each eye.

It is a violation of Virginia law to harm or to possess a bog turtle. If you have any questions concerning bog turtles or have encountered one and need assistance, please contact John Kleopfer of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (804-829-6703; John.Kleopfer@dgif.virginia.gov).

THE BOG TURTLE IS A PROTECTED SPECIES IN VIRGINIA: IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HARM, COLLECT, OR POSSESS THESE TURTLES.